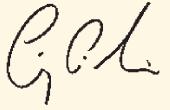


Dear Neighbor,

I am often asked questions on where the state derives its revenue and how it is spent. The chart below provides an overview of revenue and spending. I hope you find it informative in this regard.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the 2006 session, please contact my home (860-567-4757) or office (800-842-1423) at any time.

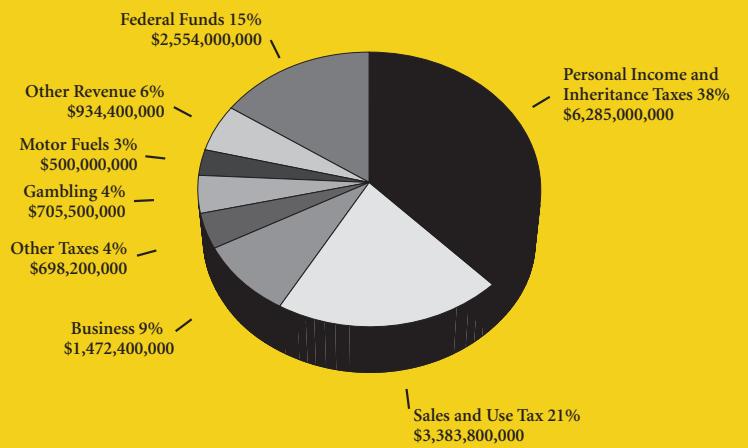
Sincerely,



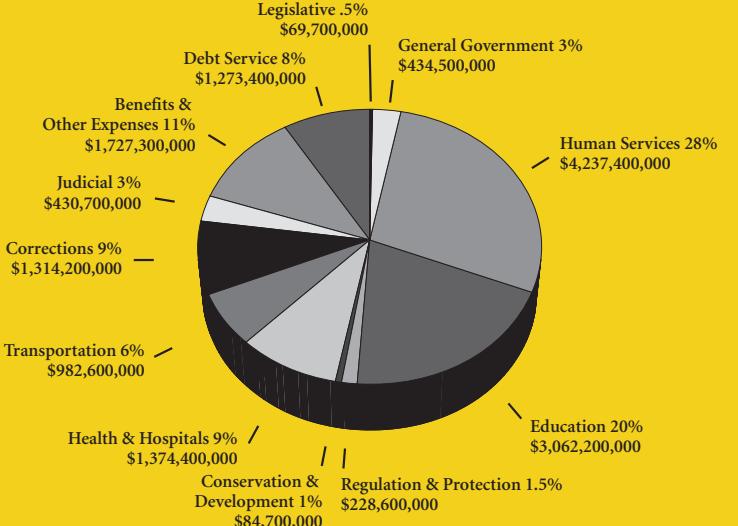
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

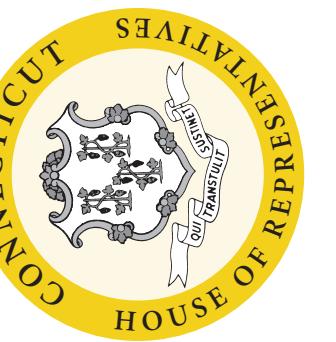


WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

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Hartford, CT
Permit#3937



State Representative



CRAIG MINER

Proudly Serving the 66th District

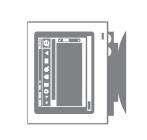
Bethlehem ★ Litchfield ★ Morris ★ Warren ★ Woodbury

Representative Craig Miner
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

TELEPHONE:

(800) 842-1423

E-MAIL:
craig.miner@housegop.ct.gov



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.housegop.ct.gov

2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
CRAIG MINER
Proudly Serving the 66th District

Bethlehem ★ Litchfield ★ Morris ★ Warren ★ Woodbury



Representative Miner speaks on legislation being debated on the floor of the House of Representatives during the 2006 Legislative Session.

SENIORS

Homecare Oversight

Public Act 06-187 will help protect the interests of senior citizens by requiring companies providing homemaker or companion services to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It also gives DCP authority to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue the registration or take other disciplinary measures in response to violations of the bill.

Under the bill, beginning October 2006, these agencies must require new employees to undergo comprehensive background checks and take specified factors into account when making employment decisions based on the checks. Homecare agencies must also provide their clients with written individualized contracts or service plans that identify the services' scope, type, frequency, and duration. In addition, agencies that enter into a contract with a client's family must detail exact compensation.

Property Tax Freeze

Public Act 06-176 allows municipalities to freeze the property taxes on homes owned by certain elderly people. To be eligible, the homeowner or his spouse must be age 70 or older and have lived in the state at least one year. The freeze continues for a surviving spouse who is at least age 62 when the homeowner dies. Homeowners must meet the same income limits that apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program, which currently gives qualified homeowners age 65 or over a tax credit against the property taxes on their homes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Prohibiting Underage Drinking On Private Property

Public Act 06-112 is designed to address a loophole in state law that has allowed underage drinking on private property. Under current law, the penalty for illegal possession in public places is a fine of \$200 to \$500. The bill also makes it illegal for a minor to possess alcohol anywhere, rather than only in public places and makes a first offense an infraction. The new law makes subsequent offenses subject to up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

ENVIRONMENT

Resources For Bantam Lake

Public Act 06-191 adds Bantam Lake to the pilot heritage lake program the Legislature enacted in 1999. This designation specifically encourages partnerships and agreements with municipalities that are contiguous to the lake and directs programs, grants and technical assistance so as to provide environmental support. It also requires the DEP to cooperate with the contiguous municipalities in any efforts to protect and preserve the character of the lake.

Bantam Lake is the largest natural lake in Connecticut and this bill will help in its continued preservation. The lake is taxed by a number of recreational uses, including boat launches, camps and two public beaches. The bill will allow the DEP and towns to work in partnership to ensure it becomes an even cleaner body of water.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Local Control Of Water Supplies

Special Act 06-6 will address public water issues in Litchfield County by allowing the Towns of Burlington, Goshen, Harwinton, Litchfield, New Hartford, Norfolk and the City of Torrington to purchase the Torrington Water Co. It will then be under control of a regional water authority, entitled the Litchfield Hills Regional Water District.

This initiative will provide the region with an opportunity to maintain water quality and protect important land long into the future. It is recognition of the hard work of many, many volunteers who hammered out the framework for what will become the water authority's legislative body.

Reducing Hospital Infections

Public Act 06-160 will help reduce infections acquired in hospitals, which can lead to very serious medical problems. The legislation creates a committee to develop a mandatory reporting system for all healthcare associated infections. In addition, the report must be posted on the Department of Public Health website and be available to the public. Because this legislation establishes a detailed reporting system, it marks an excellent step toward reducing such infections.



TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

\$2.3 Billion Package

House Bill 5844 will provide for improvements to highways and mass transit in all corners of the state, allocating \$2.3 billion over a 10-year period. Projects to be funded in Western Connecticut include the completion of the engineering and design phase of widening Interstate 84 between Waterbury and Danbury. It also includes funding to upgrade rail cars on the Danbury rail line.

Other projects that will be funded include: the restoration commuter rail service between New Haven and Springfield, MA; the renovation of rail cars for use on Shore Line East, the New Haven-Springfield Line and dredging of the state's commercial ports. The bill does not include previous proposals for increasing the state gasoline tax or bringing back highway tolls. The package will be funded through revenue bonds.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Protection Against Identity Theft

Public Act 06-60 outlaws small scanners and reencoders that can be used to create fake credit cards. This is an ever increasing problem throughout the country and the bill is a positive step towards protecting our residents. Penalties for violating the new law include up to 10 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$10,000 or both.

Home Weatherization Incentives

Public Act 06-187 exempts residential weatherization and energy efficiency products and energy efficient heating equipment from the sales tax for 13 months, from June 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. The exemption applies to insulation; programmable thermostats; water heater blankets; window film; window and door weather strips; caulking; water heaters, gas furnaces, and windows that meet federal Energy Star standards; and oil furnaces that are at least 85% efficient.

SPENDING AND TAXES

2006-2007 State Budget

There were several good points in the 2006-2007 budget package that was approved this year. These include:

- Providing a welcome tax break. The maximum property tax credit on the state income tax, which was scheduled to rise from \$350 to \$400, will instead be raised to \$500.
- Allocating \$190 million to the Rainy Day Fund. This fund, established in the wake of enacting the state income tax in the early 1990s, played a vital role in cushioning the impact on taxpayers when the state hit difficult economic times a decade later.
- To help promote business development, it repeals the 15 percent corporation tax credit surcharge in 2007 and offer tax credits for companies that hire displaced workers and create at least 50 new, full-time jobs.
- Funding the Teachers' Retirement Fund. The budget adds \$246 million to fully fund the Teachers' Retirement System for the first time in over a decade. This will help provide security for teachers and save state taxpayers money in the long run.

Saving For Education

The state budget package also creates a deduction on the state income tax for contributions to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET--the state-sponsored college savings plan). It will allow taxpayers to carry forward any unused deductions for the five following years as long as each deduction does not exceed the annual maximums, which are \$5,000 for single filers and \$10,000 for joint filers.



Rep. Miner speaks with Tasi Vriga, former Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, in the House Chamber during the 2006 Legislative Session.